that will help serve the country's national development goals while promoting sustainable, equitable development on the local and regional levels".

(c) and (d) The need for basin wise planning for development and management of water resources is duly emphasized in the National Water Policy (NWP) which states that "water resources development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit such as drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin, multi-sectorally, taking into account surface and ground water for sustainable use incorporating quantity and quality aspects as well as environmental considerations. The NWP further states that "all individual developmental projects and proposals should be formulated and considered within the framework of such an overall plan keeping in view the existing agreements/awards for a basin or a sub-basin so that the best possible combination of options can selected and sustained."

Effect of change of climate on water

1231. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called for immediate action to make a realistic assessment of climate change on water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken any steps to evaluate the consequence of climate change in river flow or groundwater characteristic and also to identify adaptation strategies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister called Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

(c) and (d) Realising the need for proper assessment of the effect of climate change on water resources and flow characteristics, research on specific issues including impact assessment of climate change on water resources has been undertaken by Ministry of Water Resources through Central Water Commission, Brahmaputra Board and National Institute of Hydrology with active participation of reputed academic institutes.

Floods in North Bihar

†1232. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is being taken by Government in the direction of water management to stop the floods in North Bihar coming from the rivers of Nepal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the status of the progress made in the context of the discussion with Nepal in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal at any level to connect the rivers in Bihar;

(d) whether there is any alternative plan to control these rivers causing damage to crores of lives and properties in North Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government has taken various steps in the direction of water management to stop the flood in North Bihar coming from the rivers of Nepal. To control the floods in rivers Bagmati and Kamala-Balan in north Bihar, the Government has approved two schemes, namely, (i) Raising and Strengthening of Embankments along River Bagmati at an estimated cost of Rs. 135.16 crore and (ii) Raising and Strengthening of Embankments along River Kamala at an estimated cost of Rs. 52.09 crore.

(b) Government of India has initiated steps for creation of storages in the Nepal territory which will help in mitigating the problem of floods being faced in North Bihar. A Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by the Secretary's of Water Resources of India and Nepal already exists to address the water related issues including floods. A detailed Project Report for the Sapt-Kosi High Dam project and Sun Kosi diversion scheme is under preparation jointly with the cooperation of the Government of Nepal.

(c) to (e) The Central Government has envisaged to make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers in the country starting with the southern rivers in a fully consultative manner. It would also explore the feasibility of linking sub-basins of rivers within the States, like Bihar.

Six intra-state link proposals have been identified in Bihar by the State Government of Bihar, namely, (i) Kohra-Chandravat, (ii) Burhi-Gandak-Non-Baya-Ganga, (iii) Bagmati-Burhi-Gandak through Belwabhar, (iv) Kosi-Ganga, (v) Kosi-Mechi (Indian portion) and (vi) Karmanasha-Suara links in Bihar. The State Government of Bihar has commenced the study of these Intra-State links.

Mullaperiyer Dam

1233. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the "Mullaperiyer Dam" dispute between States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the steps taken by Government to resolve this dispute; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) In this regard, the Government of Tamil Nadu filed a suit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 31.3.2006. The Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 stating "the two State Governments independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute". The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu & Kerala on Mulla periyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 and again with the